

AVP-AUSTRALIA 2006 STATE REPORTS

AVP NEW SOUTH WALES

AVP (NSW) continues to run conflict transformation workshops using experiential and transformational learning styles in community, prison and school settings.

- Support AVP facilitators with ongoing training workshops for AVP facilitators including an annual facilitators' training gathering at the end of January
- Support facilitators with an ongoing upgrading of the AVP/HIP NSW Sydney facilitators training manuals. This material is now available both as manuals and in a newly revised internet wiki database that has the potential to promote the sharing of AVP facilitation ideas and experiences with other AVP groups
- Provide the AVP-Australia website - www.avp.org.au
- Provide increased contact with friends of AVP and potential workshop participants with a new electronic newsletter. For more information see the AVP website.

AVP-Sydney

- Continues to run monthly weekend workshops at Forest House Public School, Surrey Hills. A recent trend has been an increasing number of people being referred from the national Domestic Violence Hotline
- Continues to run monthly First Friday Gatherings at the Devonshire Street Quaker Meeting House, Surrey Hills. These community building gatherings consist of a shared meal and a two-hour mini AVP workshop for AVP facilitators, AVP workshop graduates and friends of AVP
- Plans to run an AVP Basic workshop for Wahroonga Meeting in early 2008.

AVP-Newcastle

- Has not run workshops this year.
- Some participants from the Hunter region have attended workshops in Sydney.

AVP-Blue Mountains

- This year the facilitators have focused on workshops for parolees.

HIP Group

- Has focused on training teachers in conflict transformation experiential learning styles in Sydney
- Some of the 2007 HIP workshops in schools have been run in South West Sydney in conjunction with the Arab Council
- Has run specific workshops on Restorative Practices, Rainbow Circles (on coping with grief and loss) for both teachers and students and have other workshops in development.

Transforming Conflict

- The national Transforming Conflict TAPE modules that were run between 2000 and 2007 have now been replaced with two new units - Use Strategies to Transform Conflict NSWTCOM211A and Facilitate Nonviolence and Conflict Resolution NSWTCOM312A

- The teaching manual Transforming Conflict Facilitating Nonviolence A Facilitator's Guide is still available for sale in both print and CD formats
- For further information about support for conflict transformation experiential and transformational learning styles in colleges and schools see www.transformingconflict.info
Katherine, AVP (NSW)

AVP New South Wales Prison Group

- The prison workshops have worked at Lithgow, Bathurst, Junee and Dilwynnia Correctional Centres and at Lithgow and Katoomba for the Parole Board with parolees and people on various community orders and in rehabilitation for drugs and alcohol.
- We have facilitated 16 workshops including only one Training for Facilitation Workshop. There has been some difficulty with these as inmates are regularly moved, and in one jail there is some opposition to training inmate facilitators as it is felt that would not be useful. We have taken this up with the Department.
- We were invited to give two workshops, a Basic and an Advanced as part of a special Aboriginal programme at Bathurst. Inmates came from all over the State for this. It proved to be challenging but exciting and included a Koori inmate facilitator.
- We have been invited to help in the training of future facilitators for prisons in Canberra and Darwin.
- We are in the process of receiving assistance for accreditation from the Department of Corrective Services. It has been sometimes difficult, sometimes joyful and always a learning experience.
Sabine, AVP(NSW) Prison and AVP-Blue Mountains Groups

AVP Australian Capital Territory

- We held a very successful Basic course on 22-24 September at the Catholic University, Signadou for 10 participants. It was facilitated by Pam, Sabine who generously travelled down from the Blue Mountains, and myself.
- Most, if not all, of the participants want to continue on to at least the Advanced course which is very pleasing.
- We decided to try and fill another Basic course before moving on to the Advanced so as to ensure we have the numbers to then run a Training for Facilitating (T4F). So the new dates for courses are:
 - 19-21 October Basic course at Signadou Fri 6-9, Sat 9-4, Sun 9-3.
 - 16-18 November Advanced Course. Times & venue as above
 - T4F dates to be decided. Maybe 3rd weekend in February 2008?*Charlotte, AVP ACT*

AVP QUEENSLAND

As usual the year has flown and there never seems enough time to do all the things Alternatives to Violence Project Qld (AVPQ) would like to do. Although a couple of workshops had to be cancelled for various reasons; we have still run a number of successful workshops in the community. The prison workshops have also been very successful with the number of participants increasing, with many inmates completing all three levels and some going on to become apprentice facilitators. As usual we need more facilitators; but those we have are doing a first class job. Help Increase Peace Project (HIPP) has had many successful

workshops with high school students who are shown alternatives in dealing with violence.

We have held facilitators' training days that gives an opportunity to work out any problems, as well as an opportunity to meet and learn from other facilitators. We also had a member's dinner so we could catch up with other members and have an enjoyable evening together. We have continued with our 'Fourth Friday' each month; where all members can meet informally; this is also open to non-members who wish to know more about AVPQ.

Dorothy, Secretary AVPQ

AVP SOUTH AUSTRALIA

AVP SA has really been in recession this year. We are still in existence after 10 years, but only just. It seems to be increasingly difficult to persuade a group of 10 people to commit to a weekend community workshop. Our facilitators have run out of puff and there are not too many waiting to take up the job.

However, we were delighted to hear that Darwin Worshipping Group is keen to get AVP off the ground, and we hope we can help them in some way. It was a timely reminder too that, although our energies are flagging, how many people and communities have gained from AVP SA's hard work over the past 10 years. It must be at least 300. We will hang in there a bit longer. AVP is a life-changing kind of experience.

Jo, AVP-SA

AVP VICTORIA

The well-suited Uniting Church venue we had been using over a number of years for our AVP workshops was closed, and our last workshop was held there in November 2006. Finding suitable premises took till early 2007. During 2007 we have run two workshops, a Basic and an Advanced, which were well supported.

A new initiative has been the introduction of 'Refresher' evenings. We are grateful to Moira and Chris for developing the AVP-Vic version of what they experienced when in Sydney. Two evenings have been held, one on the theme of 'Fun and Fellowship', and the other on the theme from our Mandala 'Think Before Reacting'. These 'Refresher Evenings' provide an opportunity to build up our AVP community between workshops. They allow those who have done the AVP program to reconnect with each other and, for those who wish, to practise facilitation skills. We have been well pleased with the ones which have been held.

Our committee has been enhanced by the addition of Moira and Chris, to the small group of Lou, Ray and Bev.

Bev, AVP/Vic

AVP WESTERN AUSTRALIA

AVP/WA has had a very busy year, with lots of workshops, especially in Acacia Prison. We had a very exciting 'welcome out' dinner at Quaker Meeting House for three of our star inmate facilitators, recently released. They were very pleased to finally be out in the community, and visiting headquarters, which had been only

in their dreams for so long. It was a wonderful event, and since then we've had one of those former inmates facilitate a community workshop.

Another very positive initiative this year is the beginning of workshops for members of the Perth East Timorese community, at their request. We hope to train participants to facilitator stage in Perth, and give them a chance to practise here with us. Then they will take AVP to East Timor themselves, where they think it will be very useful in building community between various groups. This is a special project, for which we have set aside a budget to cover the initial establishment expenses.

Jo, AVP/WA Chairperson

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS) IN AUSTRALIA INC, 2008, Documents in Advance: Yearly Meeting 5-12 January 2008 Monash University, Melbourne, <http://www.quakers.org.au/files/DIA08.pdf>, visited 12/1/08]